Murder of Senior Manager, OBC

2385. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a newsitem published in the Punjab Kesari on 24th October, 1998 under the caption, "Bank Manager ki mrityu ka rahasya gaharaya";

(b) if so, whether investigations into murder of a Senior Manager of Oriental Bank of Commerce have since been completed;

(c) if so, what are the details regarding reports of medical authorities and investigation authority, separately;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Government propose to hand over this case to CBI; if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) 'Public Order' and 'Police' being State subjects, the registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crimes is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. The Central Government does not maintain details of individual incidents of crime or of progress in their investigation. Individual cases of crime occuring in the States (in this case, Punjab) are generally handed over to the CBI on the request of the concerned State Governments.

Dialogue with Terrorist Groups of N.E.

2386. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the progress as regards the dialogue with NSCN (1-M) and NSCN(K); and

(b) whether there is possibility of dialogue with ULFA at the current stage for solution of the problem?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) The Government are committed to hold talks with the militant outfits of the North East to establish peace and normalcy in the region. The Prime Minister in his Press statement at Guwahati on 15.4.1998 had stated "To all those who have strayed from the paths of togetherness, whether in Assam or other State of the North East, I extend an invitation: come forward, let us discuss, my Government is committed to holding talks, to a restoration of peace; let us do so within the four corners of our Constitution."

After talks with the Issac-Muivah group of the Natonal Socialist Council of Nagaland, it was mutually agreed to cease fire for three months with effect from 1st August, 1997. The cease fire has since been extended till end of July, 1999.

The ULFA has so far not responded to the call for talks within the parameters indicated by the Prime Minister.

Post-Midnight service of liquor in Delhi restaurants

2387. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH SURYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that serving of liquor is prohibited after 12 p.m. in restaurants in Delhi;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware that this law is being blatantly flouted;

(c) whether any action has been taken against erring people; and

(d) if so, the details of action taken during the last one year in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) The restaurants in Delhi are prohibited to serve liquor after 11.00 P.M.

(b) The licensed premises are inspected at regular intervals and appropriate action is taken when any such violation is noticed.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. During the last one year, action was initiated in three cases. Whereas appropriate penalty has already been imposed in two of these cases, the statutory proceedings in the third case are in progress.

Legislation against custodial deaths

2388. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH SURYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to bring a legislation against custodial deaths;

(b) if so, the main points thereof;

(c) if not, how Government propose to tackle this problem; and

(d) how many custodial deaths have taken place in the country during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1994, introduced in the Rajya Sabha on May 9, 1994, inter-alia proposes to amend Section 176 Cr. P.C. with a view to providing mandatory inquiry by a judicial or Metropolitan Magistrate into the case of death or disappearance of a person in the custody of the police. In the case of death, examination of the dead body shall be conducted within 24 hours of death.

(d) According to the information available, 31, 49 and 40 incidence of custodial deaths were reported in the country during 1995, 1996 and 1997 respectively.

Muslim Militant organisations in North-East

2389. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a sudden spurt in the number of muslim militant organisations in the North-East;

(b) if so, the names of these organisations;

(c) how many such ultras have been arrested; and

(d) what steps are being taken to curb their activities?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) A number of Muslim militant organisations have come up in Assam after 1990. These include:

(i) Muslim United Liberation Front of Assam/Muslim Liberation Army (MULFA/MLA)

(ii) Muslim Liberation Tigers of Assam (MLTA)

(iii) Muslim Security Force (MSF)

(iv) Islamic United Reformation Protest of India (IURPI)

(v) United Muslim Liberation Front of Assam (UMLFA)

(vi) Revolutionary Muslim Commandos (RMC)

(vii) Islamic Liberation Army of Assam (ILAA)

(viii) Islamic Sevak Sangh (ISS)

(ix) Muslim Tiger Force (MTF)

So far 22 suspected MLTA and 2 MULFA militants have been arrested in Assam.

In addition, the following Muslim militant organisations have come up in Manipur :

(i) People's United Liberation Front (PULF)

(ii) North East Minority Front (NEMF)

(iii) Islamic National Front (INF)

(iv) Kanglei Yaol Kanba Lup (KYKL-Muslim Wing)

31 PULF, 2 NEMF and 11 INF activists have so far been arrested during 1998 and 1999.

(d) Till now, the Muslim militant organisations have not carried out any violent or militant actions. However, law enforcing agencies are alive to the situation and raids/ operations are being conducted from time to time.

Human Rights abuses in the Country

2390. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India continued to have significant human rights abuses, despite extensive constitutional and statutory safeguards, according to the Annual Human Rights Report of the World, released in washington by the State Department on 27th February, 1999;

(b) whether these problems were acute in Jammu and Kashmir because the terrorist threats had disrupted the judicial system there, as pointed out in above Report; and

(c) if so, what effective steps Government propose to take to resolve human rights problems, indicating their reaction to the contents of the said Report?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) The report mentions that India continued to have significant human rights abuses, despite extensive constitutional and statutory safeguards. However, the conclusions arrived at in the report do not give a correct picture as these are based on an arbitrary selection from newspaper reports and unsupported reports and citations.